

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNEFC, OCON

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE MEETING OPENED AT 10:00 A.M. JANUARY 19 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF WALTER ASTIE, MEXICAN ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR FAO, IN ABSENCE OF MEXICAN AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ. ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING BANGLADESH AND KEYNA, WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN OCTOBER 1975 MEETING. GABON, ALTHOUGH NO LONGER MEMBER OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, WAS INVITED UPON DECISION OF CHAIRMAN ARMENDARIZ, AND IS REPRESENTED BY LOUIS LAPEBY, AS BEFORE,

2. CHAIR SET FORTH PLAN OF PROCEEDING TO CONSIDER IN MEETING THOSE DRAFT RULES ON WHICH ONLY QUESTIONS OF WORDING APPEARED TO REMAIN, AND ESTABLISHING CONTACT GROUP TO DISCUSS FEW DRAFT RULES ON WHICH QUESTIONS OF REAL SUBSTANCE EXIST (I.E., RULES 15, UNNUMBERED RULE ON APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIAT, 24 AND 25). THIS WAS AGREED, AND MEETING IS MOVING SLOWLY BUT IN ORDERLY BUSINESSLIKE FASHION ALONG THOSE LINES.

3. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (SURENA) TOOK OCCASION IN DISCUSSION OF RULE 4 TO TAKE POSITION, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WHATEVER RECOMMENDATIONS WFC MAY MAKE ON TERMINOLOGY, THAT TERM "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" SHOULD BE USED IN DRAFT RULES IN PLACE OF "EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,"

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IN RECOGNITION OF FACT THAT UN SECRETARY GENERAL HAS DECIDED UPON

FORMER TERM.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF RULE 2, PARA 1, GUINA PROPOSED ADDING FAO CONFERENCES AND COUNCIL AS EMPOWERED TO CONVENE SPECIAL SESSION OF WFC. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CRITICIZED LEADERS OF PROPOSAL (TO WHICH GUINA REPLIED), AND POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSAL APPEARS TO SUBORDINATE WFC TO FAO. CHAIR RULED THAT THIS PROPOSAL AND OTHER NEW PROPOSALS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED LATER AFTER OLD DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED.

5. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO REQUEST FOR ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO PERMIT GROUP 77 TO CONSIDER FAO SUGGESTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING FAO'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS WFC. WE HEAR GROUP 77 PLANS TO MEET MORNING OF JANUARY 20 WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. WE ALSO HEAR THAT MOST GROUP 77 COUNTRIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO ENDORSE FAO PROPOSALS WITHOUT FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENTS. THESE SUGGESTIONS MAY ARISE IN WFC WORKING GROUP ON RULES AND PROCEDURES, THEREFORE, BUT ONLY IN FORM OF PIECEMEAL PROPOSALS BY GUINA OR OTHERS, AS IN CASE OF RULE 2, PARA 4 ABOVE. VOLPE

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